



# NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**DELTA REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE (serving Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi)**  
**10800 Financial Centre Parkway, Suite 110, Little Rock, AR 72211**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Esmerelda Dickson

(601) 359-1259

## **USDA to Conduct the 2019 Census of Horticultural Specialties in Mississippi**

**Jackson, Mississippi** - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will gather information concerning detailed production and sales data for floriculture, nursery, and specialty crop industries, including greenhouse food crops from horticulture producers across Mississippi, as part of the 2019 Census of Horticultural Specialties which is a follow up of the 2017 Census of Agriculture. The 2019 Census of Horticultural Specialties results will expand on the 2017 Census of Agriculture data by looking at several aspects of horticultural agriculture during the 2019 calendar year, including crop production, value of products, square footage used for growing crops, production expenses, and more.

"Horticulture is a very important part of U.S. agriculture and our economy," said Esmerelda Dickson, State Statistician of the NASS Mississippi Field Office. "Responding to this census is the best way for growers to help associations, businesses, and policymakers advocate for their industry, and influence program decisions and technology development over the next five years."

Producers who receive the 2019 Census of Horticultural Specialties are required to respond by federal law (Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113), as it is part of the Census of Agriculture Program. The same federal law that requires producers to respond also requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential. Growers are asked to use their unique survey code to complete the horticulture census online via NASS' secure website. The online questionnaire is user friendly, accessible on most electronic devices, and saves producers valuable time by calculating totals and automatically skipping questions that don't apply to their operations. The deadline for response is Feb. 5, 2020. Results will be available December 2020. For information about the 2019 Census of Horticultural Specialties, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov/go/hort>. For more information call the NASS Delta Regional Field Office at (800) 327-2970.

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*NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.*

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